Yuki*: *Yuki Proper, Huchnom, Coast Yuki*

The Yuki language consists of three dialects originally spoken in northern California: Yuki Proper, spoken around Round Valley and Eden Valley in Mendocino County; Huchnom, spoken from just north of Round Valley south along the Eel River into Potter Valley; and Coast Yuki, spoken along the Pacific coast from Usal Creek southward about 20 miles. No known speakers remain.

Yuki has traditionally been considered related to Wappo (Powers 1877, Powell 1891, Kroeber 1906, 1911, 1925b, Elmendorf 1968, 1981, 1997), but Sawyer (1980) concludes that shared lexical items are too similar to be cognates and more likely the result of diffusion. There have been a number of hypotheses about deeper relations between Yuki-Wappo and other North American languages. Kroeber 1907 noted both Hokan and Penutian traits in their structure. Sapir (1929) classified them as a separate branch of his Hokan-Siouan. Elmendorf noted similarities to Siouan and Yuchi (1963, 1964). Possible remote relations are discussed in section 6.3.

Major published sources for Yuki are a grammatical sketch with text in Kroeber 1911, the complete lexical corpus of Yuki Proper from all sources in Sawyer & Schlichter 1984, and a reconstruction of Proto-Yukian in Schlichter 1985. Forms cited here are Yuki Proper from Sawyer & Schlichter 1984 in the original transcription.

Mithun, Marianne. 1999. The Languages of Native North America. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.